

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 020940Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4703

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ID

SUBJECT: GOI REJECTS TERM "POLITICAL PRISONER" FOR
DETAINEES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPOKESMAN BRIG GEN SUMRAHADI
TOLD PRESS SEPTEMBER 30 THAT TERM "POLITICAL PRISONER,"
PREVIOUSLY USED TO DESCRIBE DETAINEES JAILED AFTER
ABORTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 1965 COUP ATTEMPT, IS MISLEADING.
HE SAID DETAINEES WERE JAILED FOR ATTEMPTED "REBELLION"
AGAINST LEGAL GOVERNMENT, NOT FOR "POLITICAL" ACTIVITIES.
SUMRAHADI THEREFORE ASKED THAT THOSE DETAINED FOR INVOLVE-
MENT IN 1965 COUP ATTEMPT BE REFERRED TO AS
"SEPTEMBER 30 MOVEMENT/PKI" (G 30S/PKI) DETAINEES AND
THOSE DETAINED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN JANUARY 15 JAKARTA
RIOTS BE CALLED "JANUARY 15 AFFAIR" DETAINEES.

2. ADMIRAL SUDOMO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF KOPKAMTIB, REITER-
ATED THIS REQUEST FOR NEW TERMINOLOGY TO DESCRIBE DETAINEES
IN REMARKS TO PRESS AT OCTOBER 1 CEREMONY COMMEMORATING
GENERALS SLAIN IN 1965 COUP ATTEMPT HELD AT LUBUNG BUAYA
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(CROCKILE HOLE) MONUMENT. SUDOMO SAID MISUES OF PHRASE

"PLITICAL PRISONERS" HAD CREATED MISUNDERSTANDING ABROAD,
AND THAT THOSE DETAINED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN 1965 ATTEMPTED
REBELLION SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS CRIMINALS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS FOLLOW WIDELY-REPORTED
REMARK BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO TO PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM
DURING MEETING SEPTEMBER 7 THAT THERE WERE NO "POLITICAL
PRISONERS" IN INDONESIA, AND THAT DETENTIONS IN CONNECTION
WITH SEPTEMBER 30, 1965 EVENTS WERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.
NEW ATTENTION TO TERMINOLOGY IS PART OF GOI EFFORT TO
DEFUSE CRITICISM OF PRISONER POLICY.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, PROPAGANDA, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART12239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740278-0832
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741080/aaaacqmd.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI REJECTS TERM "POLITICAL PRISONER" FOR DETAINEES
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005